Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 02254 271615Z ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-05 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-07 SS-15 SP-02 FEAE-00 INT-05 AGRE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /105 W

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R 231335Z JUN 77 FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5312

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT AU PRINCE 2254

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, PGOV, PORG, HA

SUBJECT: CONATELE SUCCEEDS INAEL

- 1. THE GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER NOUVEAU MONDE OF 20 JUNE ANNOUNCED THE CREATION OF CONATELE, THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND FIGHT AGAINST EROSION. CONATELE IS TO BE HEADED BY A PERMANENT COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF THE SECRETARIES OF AGRICULTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS, AND THE DIRECTORS OF CONADEP, INAREM AND TOURISM/PUBLIC RELATIONS. THE DUTIES ARE EXCEEDINGLY BROAD BUT FOCUSED GENERALLY ON RECOMMENDING POLICIES TO (A) PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT; (B) PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES FROM EROSION; (C) FORMULATE A POLICY OF REFORESTATION COUPLED WITH FINDING CHEAPER FUELS; AND (D) TO CREATE A TECHNICAL BASE TO SUPPORT CONATELE'S POLICIES. THE ARTICLE SAID FURTHER THAT CONATELE WOULD ACQUIRE REGULATORY AND COORDINATIVE POWERS TO CARRY OUT ITS WORK.
- 2. THE SAME ANNOUNCEMENT DECLARED THAT INAEL, THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ELECTRIC ENERGY, HAD BEEN DISBANDED, PARTLY BECAUSE CONATELE'S MUCH BROADER RESPONSIBILITIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 PORT A 02254 271615Z

OVERLAP THOSE OF INAEL AND BECAUSE THE IBRD HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT INAEL'S CREATION WOULD DIMINISH THE ROLE PLAYED BY ELECTRICITE D'HAITI. EFFORTS WILL NOW BE MADE TO STRENGTHEN THE EDH.

3. COMMENT: THE GOH HAS ACCEDED TO THE IBRD'S DEMANDS TO DISMANTLE INAEL IN A DEADPAN, RATHER FRANK BUT BEST-FOOT-FORWARD

ANNOUNCEMENT ONLY A FEW DAYS BEFORE IT MEETS THE IBRD IN THE JOINT COMMISSION MEETING. BY SO DOING, THE GOH HAS PRESUMABLY RESOLVED ITS PROBLEM WITH IBRD. WHETHER IT HAS ALSO TAKEN A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD ON ITS MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS HAS YET TO BE DEMONSTRATED; THE NEWSPAPER ANNOUNCEMENT HAS NOT BEEN COMPLEMENTED BY OTHER MINISTERIAL OR MEDIA COMMENTARY. FROM A LEADERSHIP POINT OF VIEW, HOWEVER, CONATELE HAS AN EXCELLENT SET OF DIRECTORS, SHOULD IT WISH TO DO ANYTHING.

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